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REPORT

OF THE

JOINT SPECIAL COMMITTEE

ON THE APPOINTMENT OF

A City Physician.

ROXBURY:
PRINTED FOR THE CITY COUNCIL.
1855.

City of Roxbury.

In Common Council, May 21, 1855.

Ordered, That a Joint Special Committee be appointed to consider the subject of appointing a City Physician, and that they be instructed to report by Ordinance, or otherwise, as they may deem expedient.

Sent up for concurrence.

JOSHUA SEAVER, *Clerk.*

In Board of Aldermen, May 23, 1855.

Concurred.

JOSEPH W. TUCKER, *City Clerk.*

In Common Council, June 11, 1855.

Mr. Bumstead, from the above Committee, submitted the following Report and Ordinance, and the same was ordered to be laid on the table and printed for the use of the Council.

JOSHUA SEAVER, *Clerk.*

REPORT.

THE Joint Special Committee to whom was referred the subject of appointing a City Physician, have attended to the duty assigned them, and respectfully submit the following

REPORT:

That the interest of the City requires the appointment of a City Physician, inasmuch as there are no available means by which the poor of the city can receive the benefits of vaccination free from charge; and as so terrible a disease as the Small Pox should be prevented, as far as possible, by the adoption of so simple a safeguard as vaccination, it is a duty incumbent upon the city to place within the reach of the poor and destitute, and of all who may desire it, the benefit of vaccination free from charge.

This duty has become compulsory on the part of the city by "An Act to secure general vaccination," enacted by the past Legislature, compelling all towns and cities to be at the expense of furnishing the means of vaccination to such of their own citizens as may be unable to meet the same.

Other considerations suggested themselves to your Committee in favor of establishing the office of City Physician, which have been duly considered; all of which they have inserted in the proposed Ordinance accompanying this Report, which they herewith submit, and unanimously recommend its adoption.

For the Committee,

EBEN'R W. BUMSTEAD.

AN ORDINANCE

ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF CITY PHYSICIAN.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Roxbury, as follows:

SECTION 1. There shall be chosen forthwith, and hereafter annually in the month of May, and whenever a vacancy occurs, by concurrent vote of the two branches of the City Council, a City Physician, who shall hold his office until he is removed, or a successor chosen in his place. He shall be removable at the pleasure of the City Council, and shall receive such compensation as the City Council shall from time to time determine.

SECT. 2. The said physician shall attend, at his office, or at such place as may be designated, at such times during the day as the Board of Aldermen may direct; and he shall vaccinate any inhabitant of the city, who shall apply to him for that purpose, without charge; he shall also give certificates of vaccination to such children as have been vaccinated, to enable them to obtain admission to the public schools: *provided*, that no person shall be entitled to the benefits of this section, who shall wilfully refuse, or neglect to return to said physician when requested so to do, for the purpose of proving the effect of the vaccination, or of renewing the supply of virus for the use of said physician.

SECT. 3. The said City Physician shall always have on hand, as far as is practicable, a sufficient quantity of virus, and he shall supply the Consulting Physicians of the city, and the physicians of the Roxbury Dispensary, with the same without charge.

SECT. 4. He shall keep a record of all cases of Small Pox, or other malignant diseases, attended by him under this ordinance,

and make a report thereof to the City Council, as often as once in three months, or whenever the Board of Aldermen may direct.

SECT. 5. The said City Physician shall examine all causes of disease within the city, and inquire into all sources of danger to the public health; and in case of an alarm of any contagious, infectious, or other dangerous disease, occurring in the city or neighborhood, to give to the Mayor, or either Board of the City Council, such professional advice and information as they may request, with a view to the prevention of said diseases, and the preservation of the health of the inhabitants.

SECT. 6. The said City Physician shall likewise perform all professional services required at the City Almshouse, when called upon by the Superintendent of the same, the Overseers of the Poor, or Mayor and Aldermen; and shall likewise perform such duties as are required in "An Act to secure general vaccination" as the Mayor and Aldermen may direct.

SECT. 7. The said City Physician shall attend to all cases of disease that may occur among prisoners in the "Lock-up," and perform such other professional services as may be required at the aforesaid place when called upon by any of the City Police.

SECT. 8. This Ordinance shall go into effect on and after its passage.